

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Northington *et al.*

Appl. No.: To be Assigned  
(Continuation of 09/166,069)

Filed: Herewith

For: Open-Architecture System for Real-  
Time Consolidation of Information  
from Multiple Financial Systems

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket: 16762.093A

**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to the examination thereof.

It is believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740.

***Amendments***

***In the Specification:***

Page 1, line 8, before "claims", please insert --is a continuation of application number 09/166,069, filed October 5, 1998, and--.